Inside the AMS

Updated AMSRefs Package Available

In June 2004 the AMS made available an update of the AMSRefs package. This is an extension package for LaTeX that facilitates the creation of bibliographies and citations in LaTeX documents. Use of AMSRefs allows for the retention of rich markup that makes references easier to reuse in other publishing environments, such as on the Web, in other book or journal formats, or with citation services. The package is available for free on the AMS website.

The purpose of AMSRefs is to provide a simpler, more flexible way to use many of the convenient bibliography and citation features that users of LaTeX and BibTeX have come to expect. AMSRefs has been carefully designed to encourage the preservation of structured markup of the bibliography throughout the entire lifetime of a document, from rough draft to final archival version. It does this by replacing the unstructured .bbl file format of LaTeX by a new, fully structured format. The package is compatible with the "showkeys", "hyperref", and "backrefs" packages and implements the functionality of the popular "cite" package. One of the advantages of AMSRefs is that the bibliography style is controlled completely through LaTeX instead of being determined partly by a BibTeX style file and partly through LaTeX. Another advantage is that the same data format is used in the database file and in the LaTeX document. Thus an AMSRefs-format database is a valid LaTeX document that can be printed directly. Also, an author can send an article with embedded references to a publisher without any loss of internal structural information about the entries. It is possible to use the AMSRefs package without abandoning one's existing BibTeX database files.

For more information on AMSRefs and to download the package, visit the website `http://www.ams.org/tex/amsrefs.html`. Further information can be obtained by writing to the AMS technical support group, `tech-support@ams.org`.

—David M. Jones, AMS

AMS Participates in Capitol Hill Exhibition

Lisa Fauci and Nick Cogan of Tulane University represented the AMS at the 10th annual exhibition of the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF), held June 22, 2004, on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. Fauci and Cogan highlighted their work on "Mathematical Modeling of Swimming Organisms" and discussed the use of modern methods in computational fluid dynamics to create a controlled environment where the dynamics of organisms can be measured and visualized. Their presentation at this exhibition reached many congressional staff and members of Congress, as well as other interested parties. In fact, this year's exhibition drew its largest crowd ever, with over 370 in attendance.

Lisa Fauci and Nick Cogan (Tulane University) discuss mathematical modeling with Dr. Arden Bement, acting director of the National Science Foundation.

The CNSF is an alliance of over ninety scientific and professional societies and universities that are united by a concern for the future vitality of the national science, mathematics, and engineering enterprise. This coalition, chaired by Samuel M. Rankin III, associate executive director of the AMS and the director of its Washington office, works to increase the federal investment in the National Science Foundation (NSF).

The annual CNSF exhibition showcases research made possible by the NSF through exhibits displaying a wide range of scientific research and education projects. The 2004 exhibition included thirty-three exhibit booths and provided an informal setting for university researchers and educators to describe their work to leaders on Capitol Hill.

—Anita L. Benjamin, AMS Washington office